

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a storage system that is highly available even in the face of component failures in the storage system, and a method for operating that storage system. A first and a second file server each includes a file server request log for storing incoming file server requests. Both the first and second file servers have access to a common set of mass storage elements. Each incoming file server request is copied to both the first and second file servers; the first file server processes the file server request while the second file server maintains a copy in its file server request log. Each file server operates using a file system that maintains consistent state after each file server request. On failover, the second file server can perform those file server requests in its file server request log since the most recent consistent state. There is no single point of failure that prevents access to any individual mass storage element.